

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed October 17, 2003 has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. Claim 1 is cancelled. Claims 2, 5, 7, 8 and 11 are amended. No claims are added. Thus, claims 2-11 remain pending and are submitted for reconsideration.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicates that claims 2-6 contain allowable subject matter. Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form as suggested by the Examiner and is now in condition for allowance. Claims 3-7 depend from claim 2 and are likewise in condition for allowance.

Drawing Objections

Fig. 3 is objected to as confusing. Paragraph [0036] of the application has been amended to eliminate any confusing with regard to Fig. 3. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection

Claims 5, 6 and 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The claims have been amended where appropriate. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 8-10, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,129,675 ("Wang"). Claims 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,358,273 ("Onishi"). Claim 8 and 11 are independent claims and are addressed in turn below.

The rejection of claim 8 should be withdrawn, because neither Wang nor Onishi disclose, teach or suggest the claimed invention. For example, neither references, discloses, teaches or suggests an airbag “wherein one of the pair of front panels includes an integrally formed rearward section located inside the airbag and connecting the front section to a rear section” as called for in claim 8. The Examiner contends that Wang discloses a front panel (28) having a rearward extending (52, 54) that connects the front and the rear section of the airbag. However, the rearward extending piece (52, 54) is not “integrally formed” with the front panel (28) as called for in claim 8. Thus, Wang cannot anticipate claim 8. With regard to Onishi, the Examiner contends that the regulating member (4) is a rearward extending piece. However, the regulating member (4) is not “integrally formed” with a front panel as called for in claim 8. Thus, Onishi cannot anticipate claim 8. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 8 is respectfully requested.

Claims 9, 10 and 12 depend from claim 8 and are allowable therewith, for at least the reasons set forth above, without regard to the further patentable limitations contained therein.

The rejection of claim 11 should be withdrawn, because Onishi fails to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed invention. For example, Onishi fails to disclose, teach or suggest a rearward extending section that “includes an opening for allowing gas to pass between the chambers” as called for in claim 11. The Examiner contends that the lateral regulating member (4) disclosed in Onishi anticipates the claimed “rearward extending member.” The Examiner also contends that the regulating member (4) includes “an opening” because the regulating member “is a strap, thus allowing air flow on either side of the strap.” The disclosure of airflow around the strap is not a disclosure of an opening in the strap. Onishi clearly does not disclose an opening in the strap. Thus, Onishi cannot anticipate the claimed invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 11 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

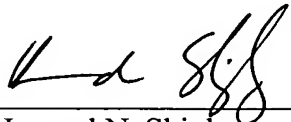
Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would expedite allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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SHOULD ADDITIONAL FEES BE NECESSARY IN CONNECTION WITH THE FILING OF THIS PAPER, OF IF A PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME IS REQUIRED FOR TIMELY ACCEPTANCE OF SAME, THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741 FOR ANY SUCH FEES; AND APPLICANT(S) HEREBY PETITION FOR ANY NEEDED EXTENSION OF TIME.